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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 31st meeting, held on 12 November 1992, the First Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.1/47/L.43.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to provide such services as may be requested by the signatory States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to initiate the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

3. It should be noted that the Convention would be a convention of States parties and its associated costs would therefore be met in accordance with the financial arrangements to be made by the signatories to the Convention. Accordingly, the Secretary-General considers that, as with previous conventions of States parties, there would be no programme budget implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the Secretariat might be required to provide the following assistance and support:

(a) Assistance in the organization and holding of the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization at The Hague in the week of 8 to 12 February 1993. It is assumed that the session will require interpretation of a maximum of 8 meetings in six official languages (A,C,E,F,R,S) and processing of 50 pages of pre-session documentation, 40 pages of in-session documentation and 50 pages of post-session documentation. It is anticipated that the pre- and post-session documentation will be processed in the six official languages at Headquarters. It is also assumed that conference-servicing facilities and equipment (including word processing) will be available on site. On the basis of the above assumptions, the cost of the organization and holding of the first session of the Preparatory Commission is estimated at $337,000, as follows:

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(i)	Conference-servicing costs (on a full-cost basis)	199 300
(ii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance of 49 conference-servicing staff from Geneva	141 600
(iii)	Substantive costs - travel and daily subsistence allowance for one Professional and one General Service staff from the Office for Disarmament Affairs	11 100
(iv)	Administrative costs (pouch, communications, etc.)	21 000
	Total (a)	373 000

(b) Assistance and support for up to six months to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission:

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(i)	Salary and common staff costs of three Professional staff to assist the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for a period of up to 6 months	142 200
(ii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for the three Professional staff	111 400
	Total (b)	253 600
	Grand total, (a) and (b)	626 600

5. It should be noted that the above estimates have been prepared on the basis of the theoretical full cost of United Nations conference-servicing assistance needed for the initial session of the Preparatory Commission. In other words, should it be possible to find locally, and employ, conference-servicing assistance that meets United Nations standards, the associated conference-servicing costs might be revised downwards. In addition, it is planned to use the presence of United Nations conference-servicing staff to help train those who could be locally recruited so that the latter would assume those responsibilities fully as of the second session of the Preparatory Commission. Therefore, the costing is being provided for indicative purposes only and the Preparatory Commission will bear only the actual costs involved.

6. In accordance with current practice, provision of support from the United Nations to activities related to international conventions or treaties which under their respective legal instruments are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may be undertaken only when sufficient resources to cover such activities have been received by the United Nations. In this particular case, however, the Secretary-General would be required to provide services for the first session of the Preparatory Commission too soon after the opening of the Convention for signature (13 January 1993) to expect that contributions would be received. Accordingly, the General Assembly would need to authorize an exception from the established practice.

7. In view of the critical financial situation of the Organization, the Secretary-General intends to seek from States signatories to the Convention who are in a position to do so, advance payments against their prospective assessed contributions under the Convention to cover these initial requirements. At the same time, in the event that such advances are not sufficient, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2, it would also need to authorize the Secretary-General to provide, on an exceptional basis, the required services to the Preparatory Commission as a reimbursable advance from the General Fund of up to $626,600 to be reimbursed to the United Nations by the Preparatory Commission within 90 days of the anticipated beginning of rendering of services by the United Nations, i.e., before 15 April 1993.